

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) A method for offering products, comprising:
providing a set of available product data records in a memory, each available product data record containing a specification for an associated available product;
providing a set of variance data records in the memory, each variance data record containing an allowed variance to an associated available product;
displaying the set of available product data records and the set of variance data records on a visual display; and
receiving an input, via a user interface selection device, of a user selection from the set of variance data records.

39.-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
providing an online catalog on a computer, the catalog having an unavailable product/attribute selector to select an unavailable product or attribute that is not offered for sale;
and
using selections of unavailable products or attributes that are not offered for sale obtained via the unavailable product/attribute selector as market research to determine whether to extend a product offering that includes the unavailable products or attributes.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
suggesting an existing/standard product based upon and as a replacement for the selection.

44. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
determining a resource cost for the unavailable product/attribute.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
assigning a category of design requirements to the unavailable product/attribute.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:
determining a resource cost for the unavailable product/attribute;
assigning a first category to the unavailable product/attribute if the resource cost is relatively lower;
assigning a second category to the unavailable product/attribute if the resource cost is relatively higher.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:
transmitting a request for the unavailable product/attribute to an address associated with the assigned category.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising:
transmitting the request to a manufacturing facility for the unavailable product/attribute if it is assigned to a first predefined category.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising:
transmitting the request to an engineering department for the unavailable product/attribute if it is assigned to a second predefined category.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
providing a list of available products in the online catalog.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, further comprising:
obsoleting an available product by moving it from the list of available products to a list of unavailable products.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
receiving an order of an available product and transmitting a request to a manufacturing facility.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the unavailable product/attribute selector comprises a list of unavailable products/attributes.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
classifying an item in the list of unavailable products/attributes.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the unavailable product/attribute selector comprises an online form.

56. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
~~a processor;~~
a user interface selection device in communication with the processor, the user interface selection device adapted to display a list of products or attributes that are not currently offered in a line of available products or attributes from a provider; and
a processor to compile selections made through the user interface of selections of the available products that are not currently offered in a line of available products or attributes, the compilation of selections to be used as market research for a decision of whether to extend a product offering to include the list of products or attributes.

57. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 56, wherein the processor stores ~~further comprising:~~
~~storing~~ in a memory of the ~~computer~~ system a list of unavailable products/attributes.

58. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 57, wherein the processor displays ~~further comprising:~~
~~displaying~~ the list of unavailable products/attributes on a visual interface of the ~~computer~~ system.

59. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 57, wherein the processor stores further comprising:
———~~storing~~ in a memory of the ~~computer~~ system a category of design requirements associated with the unavailable products/attributes.

60. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 56, wherein the processor is adapted to further comprising:

~~receiving~~ receive a selection of an unavailable product/attribute via a selection signal from a user interface selection device of the ~~computer~~ system; and

~~displaying~~ display a resource cost of the unavailable product/attribute on a visual interface of the ~~computer~~ system.

61. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 56, wherein the processor is adapted to further comprising:

~~receiving~~ receive a selection of an unavailable product/attribute via a selection signal from a user interface selection device of the ~~computer~~ system; and

~~identifying~~ identify, by a CPU of the ~~computer~~ system, one or more available products, from the list of available products, that has similar characteristics to those of the selected unavailable product/attribute; and

~~displaying~~ display the identified one or more available products on a visual interface of the ~~computer~~ system.

62. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 56, wherein the processor is adapted to further comprising:

~~generating~~ generate a specification for a product in response to receiving, by a CPU of the ~~computer~~ system, a selection signal from the user interface selection device of an unavailable product/attribute.